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NOTES AND COMMENT

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

The recommendation of the three Conservation Committees announced in the last issue (*Ecology*, 2: p. 154) has been approved by the organizations which these committees represent. At a meeting in New York on May 14 it was agreed to adopt the name "*Executive Committee on Natural Resources of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, National Academy of Science, and National Research Council.*" The project committee, composed of Dr. John M. Clark, Chairman, Col. Henry S. Graves and Major Barrington Moore, presented a plan for further work. The principles agreed upon include the establishment of a permanent salaried executive, with an assistant and clerical force. "The purpose in organizing the Executive Committee on Natural Resources is to promote, through scientific effort and through education, the best possible use of our natural resources in the economic, industrial and social development of the country." The problem of natural resources is recognized as being a basic one in public welfare. Information on natural resources will be collected, through organizations equipped for the work, and will be correlated and disseminated through the educational and other organizations of the country, thus building a sound basis for the development of conservation policies. Public organizations interested in natural resources will not only be given a better basis for action, but will be stimulated to closer cooperation and coordinated effort. The cost is estimated at \$25,000 per year, which is to be raised by the Ways and Means Committee, consisting of Dr. Vernon Kellogg, Dr. John M. Clarke and Col. H. S. Graves.

ITALIAN AGRONOMICAL SOCIETY

The following is the substance of a note received from the Secretary of the Italian Agronomical Society for publication in *ECOLOGY*.

The purpose in starting this Society is to unite all branches of science connected with agriculture; the project is supported by almost all Italian scientists working in these branches. Organization is proceeding rapidly, the Advisory Committee having been nominated, the Statutes formulated and approved, and the main lines of immediate action, under five heads, decided upon. These lines, each under a commission of the ablest specialists, are as follows:

1. Utilization of arid and poor lands, with special attention to drought resistance and the adaptability of plants to drought. (Prof. Borzi, Director of the Colonial Botanical Institute Gardens, Palermo.)
2. Limits of the yield capacity of wheat in southern areas, especially in connection with physiological features, influenced by environmental factors in that latitude. (Dr. V. dei Duchi di Rivera.)
3. Insects injurious to the olive. (Sen. B. Grassi, Director, Institute of Anatomy, University of Rome.)
4. Utilization for potash fertilizer of the leucite deposits which are abundant in Italy. (Dr. Borghesani, International Institute of Agriculture, Rome.)
5. Causes and effects of root-rot which destroy Sicilian citrous fruits.

At the meeting of July 8, 1920, presided over by Prof. Alessandro Ghigi, of the University of Bologna, scientists from all parts of Italy were present. Senator B.